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forms a close, consecutive exposition of the law in a very perspicuous manner. Many of the disputed points have been illumined by an assembly of authorities and a comment more cautious than the matter warrants. The so-called doctrine of "Identification" is thus discussed, as are also the "Degrees of Negligence," with conclusions so clearly presented as to seem inevitable.

The work admirably represents what it was apparently intended that it should—a consideration of the Law of Negligence, and not an exhaustive collection of authorities on the subject. The benefit of such a treatment cannot be doubted. If there is any subject more necessarily dependent on the particular facts of each case, it would be equally conducive to clearness and certainty to have it displayed in as excellent a mode as is exemplified by this work of Mr. Sington. A work such as this induces thought, by which alone one can discover the reason of the law, and, as we are told by Lord Coke, "The Law is unknown to him that knoweth not the Reason thereof, and the known Certaintie of the Law is the Safetie of all."

E. S. R.

ABBOTT'S TRIAL-BRIEF ON THE PLEADINGS. By AUSTIN ABBOTT. Volume I, Demurrer. Volume II, Issues of Fact. Second Edition. Pp. xxxiii+xiii+2120. Rochester: The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company. 1904.

This work of Mr. Abbott's first appeared in one volume thirteen years ago, and has received considerable commendation ever since. The purpose in mind was to aid court and counsel in "getting readily at . . . contests on the merits of the cause;" to offer some work which would help "to reduce the number of mistrials below," an aid which would at once "diminish the discouraging and deterrent effect which such experiences have upon clients, and diminish the number of appeals to crowd the calendars of the courts of last resort."

The new edition appears in two volumes, each larger than the original volume. The revision consists chiefly in bringing the subject down to date in the light of the great number of recent decisions. Some few topics have been developed more fully, both by means of more extended examination of old authorities and also careful work on new. There are many new additions, especially a full and helpful chapter on "Amendments of Pleadings," and each chapter has been extended by several sections, covering points in many cases not mentioned in the first edition.

No book exists which has treated so exhaustively the details

of court procedure and the practice of drawing papers properly and skilfully, and the importance of these subjects amply justifies careful attention to a work devoted wholly to their elucidation and methodical treatment.

E. H. B.

LAW OF PRIVATE CORPORATIONS: A SUMMARY. By LESLIE J. TOMPKINS. Pp. xxxi+264. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1904.

This book might be termed not inappropriately a "Digest of a Digest," so comprehensive is its subject and so condensed is the treatment here given. It is not primarily for the student, for it would mislead him if he failed to refer to the cases cited. For example, Section 202, under the heading "Gifts *Mortis Causa*" (in respect of shares of stock), says: "Mere delivery of the certificate of shares with intention to donate, without any indorsement on the back, will constitute a valid gift *mortis causa*; so, too, the delivery of the keys of the depository of the stock is sufficient, or the delivery of the depository itself."

For the most part the language used is taken from the decisions cited; indeed *in toto* the work of the author has been twofold, to select extracts illustrating his thought, and to make a thoughtful arrangement of these selections.

We are unable to think out its reason for being.

E. H. B.

AN EXPOSITION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. By HENRY FLANDERS. Fifth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Pp. xii + 326. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson & Co., 1904.

Mr. Flanders's little book on the U. S. Constitution is too widely known and used to need additional commendation now. Its circulation bespeaks its merits. Such a book will always be in demand—one in which essentials are the body of the work, and one in which elaboration is sacrificed for facts. An accurate knowledge of the theory and practical character of the Federal Constitution should be part of that knowledge which is the working capital of every citizen, and just such a book as this is offered to be every citizen's book. It is clear, accurate, to the point, and noticeably concise. In its preparation the author has done the following: (1) set forth the reasons upon which each clause of the constitution rests; (2) shown "the interpretation that has been given to these clauses by the authoritative exposition of the courts (and so far as practicable,